

Overview of Problem-Solving Courts

State Court
Administrative Office
May 22, 2018



Problem-Solving Courts

- Drug courts, mental health courts, and veterans treatment courts
- For individuals with SUD/MH diagnosis and in need of treatment
- Focus on treatment and supervision instead of incarceration
- Team of professionals include the judge, treatment, probation, law enforcement, prosecutor, defense attorney, and evaluator



Structure of a Problem-Solving Court

- Intensive supervision
 - Frequent review hearings
 - Treatment
 - Random and frequent drug/alcohol testing
 - Probationer appointments
 - Home checks
 - Community service
- Phases
- Incentives/sanctions individualized and based on behavior



Drug Courts

- Includes drug, DWI, hybrid, and family dependency treatment court programs
- Substance use disorder
- Focus on treatment and compliance



Mental Health Courts

- Serious mental illness, serious emotional disturbance, or a developmental disability (as defined in the mental health code)
 - Schizophrenia
 - Bipolar disorder
 - Psychotic disorder
- Partnership with Community Mental Health
- Focus on medication and treatment compliance



Veterans Treatment Courts

- VTC uses a hybrid integration of drug court and mental health court principles
- Partnership with Department of Veterans Affairs healthcare networks, Veterans Benefits Administration, volunteer veteran mentors, and organizations that support veterans and veterans' families
- Serve veterans struggling with addiction, serious mental illness, and co-occurring disorders

